



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/777,856	02/07/2001	Ami Aronheim	01/21605	3362

7590 07/01/2003

c/o ANTHONY CASTORINA
SUITE 207
2001 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

EXAMINER

SANDALS, WILLIAM O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1636	9

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

File 7

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/777,856	ARONHEIM ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	William Sandals	1636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 May 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-49 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1-49 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). <u>9</u> .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-35, drawn to a method for identification of interactions between polypeptides which may interact with Ras , classified in class 435, subclass 6.
- II. Claims 36-38, drawn to a nucleic acid construct comprising a nucleic acid encoding cytoplasmic Ras with an inducible promoter, classified in class 536, subclass 24.1.
- III. Claims 39-42, drawn to a nucleic acid library encoding cytoplasmic Ras fusion polypeptides, classified in class 536, subclass 23.4.
- IV. Claims 43-46, drawn to nucleic acid constructs encoding a first polypeptide which interacts with the plasmalemma and a second nucleic acid encoding a Ras fusion polypeptide, classified in class 536, subclass 23.5.
- V. Claims 47-49, drawn to a method for identifying polypeptides of interest which modify the plasmalemma, classified in class 436, subclass 86.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions of Group I and V are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions of Group I and Group V are

unrelated because the method of Group I is directed to identifying interactions between a polypeptide and Ras, where the invention of Group V is directed to identifying polypeptides which modify the plasmalemma. The methods are directed to identifying different properties of polypeptides, with different and distinct outcomes. Thus the method of Group I is patentably distinct from the method of Group V.

Inventions of Groups II-IV and I & V are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case The products of Groups II-IV are nucleic acids which may be used in materially different processes, such as each of the different methods of Groups I and V.

Inventions of Group II and III-IV are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions of Group II and Groups III-IV are unrelated because the nucleic acid of Group II consists of a nucleic acid encoding a cytoplasmic Ras mutant polypeptide under the control of a promoter, which is physically biologically and patentably different and distinct from the nucleic acids encoding the Ras fusion polypeptides of Group III or Group IV.

Inventions of Group III and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each

other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention of the subcombination of Group IV, which includes the nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide which interacts with the plasmalemma is patentably different and distinct from the subcombination of Group III, the library of nucleic acids encoding Ras fusion polypeptides which has separate utility such as the use of the library encoding a Ras polypeptide in a method of screening for Ras enzymatic activity. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

A communication was made to Sol Sheinbein, Esq. on May 19, 2003 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Art Unit: 1636

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William Sandals whose telephone number is (703) 305-1982. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Remy Yucel can be reached on (703) 305-1998. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-4242 for regular communications and (703) 308-4242 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

William Sandals
June 28, 2003

Terry McKelvey
TERRY MCKELVEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER